

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING OF THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION

May 6, 2010

The Rhode Island Science & Technology Advisory Council (“STAC”) met on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in Public Session at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Clyde Briant (Co-Chair), David Farmer (Co-Chair), Peter Alfonso, David Hibbitt, Thomas Rockett and Donald Stanford. Members absent were Timothy Babineau, Pierre Corriveau, Kimball Hall, Saul Kaplan, Margaret Leinen, Thomas Ryan and Jeffrey Seemann.

Also present was Governor Cariceri, RIEDC Executive Director Keith Stokes and RIEDC staff. Co-chairs Briant and Farmer presided over the meeting.

Welcome

Co-Chair Clyde Briant welcomed everyone and announced that the agenda would focus on Science Technology Education and Math (S.T.E.M.) education issues and feature presentations by RI Commissioner of Education Deborah Gist and Jean Slattery, Senior Associate for Science at Achieve Inc. The meeting did not have a quorum and was held as an information session. No business was transacted.

Update on STAC and EDC initiatives

Co-Chair Briant introduced EDC Director Keith Stokes who stated that growing Rhode Island’s knowledge economy is a top priority for the Corporation and the state. The combination of workforce development and capital programs that RIEDC is working to develop with State House Leadership will help to further grow a promising economy. Recent examples of efforts include the recently released CCRI Commission Report and the Job Creation Guaranty Program, currently under consideration, that is designed to fill a major capital gap for innovation-driven companies with soft assets such as patents, licenses and intellectual property.

Co-Chair Briant then introduced STAC Executive Director Christine Smith who presented an update on STAC activities. The activities reported on included creation of a statewide networking group for professionals in higher education and medicine involved in sponsored research and advancement that facilitates discussion of areas of mutual research interest, and

sponsorship of a medical device matchmaking event . Smith also reported how the \$5 million in Collaborative Research Grant funding has been distributed into the community over the previous four years. Of the funding, 55% has gone to researchers in higher education, 19% to researchers at hospitals and 22% to researchers in the private sector. Smith also reported that according to budget summaries supplied by grant awardees, 60% of the funding was used to hire and train personnel, 40% was used for supplies and 20% purchased shared equipment for the laboratories.

Smith then introduced STAC member David Hibbitt who presented a summary of a project entitled ***Sustainable Energy Without the Hot Air*** conducted by Professor David MacKay of Cambridge University, England and the Chief Scientific Advisor, UK Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Continuing the Race to the Top

Co-Chair Farmer then introduced Commissioner Deborah Gist who provided an update on the state's Race to the Top re-application which the RI Department of Education has been hard at work engaging the community in preparing. The Commissioner explained that Race to the Top is a grant application. Winning Race to the Top will bring \$75 million to Rhode Island to build systems of support for educators and students. All of the initiatives in the Race to the Top proposal are part of the Rhode Island strategic plan. The additional funds would help implement these initiatives more effectively and more efficiently, and they will help districts address existing legal requirements (requirements of the Basic Education Program (BEP) and other Board of Regents regulations and state laws). Race to the Top funds will help develop: 1) local assessment systems (formative and interim); 2) standards-based curricula; 3) accessible data systems, including data dashboards and drill-down capacity; 4) a leadership development and support system; 5) a wide range of teacher support, including induction and comprehensive professional development; 6) the design of the Educator Evaluation System and support for implementation; 7) support systems for moving to new common core standards; and 8) a comprehensive system of supports for school intervention.

Development of National Science Standards and the Impact on S.T.E.M.

Co-Chair David Farmer then called on Dr. Jean Slattery, Senior Associate for Science at Achieve, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based independent, bipartisan education reform Organization. Governor Carcieri has been an Achieve board member since 2007 and under his leadership Rhode Island was one of the first states to join Achieve's Governor American Diploma Project Network. The goals of this initiative are to raise academic standards and ensure more students graduate from high school ready for college and work. Dr. Slattery updated STAC on the development and impact of national standards and assessments on S.T.E.M. education. The National Research Council (NRC) is currently developing a conceptual framework for new science standards which Achieve will use to develop a new standards document. This new document will replace the current one which is ten years old and will encompass new developments in cognitive science, rapid developments in the natural sciences and engineering, and blend the current understanding of teaching and learning with new developments in science. NRC expects to deliver a framework to Achieve in winter 2010 and Achieve is tasked with having final standards by December 2011. The important work will begin

once the standards are in place and the education community begins to develop curriculum that uses first class tools to demonstrate relevance of S.T.E.M. and brings it from the abstract into the real world.

Adjournment

There being no further business Co-Chair Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Christine M.B. Smith
Secretary